

Message Text

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SUBJ: REACTION OF SIL FRIENDS TO CONTRACT TERMINATION

REF: LIMA 3588

SUMMARY. PRESTIGIOUS PERUVIAN FRIENDS OF SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS (SIL) HAVE SIGNED PETITION TO GOP ASKING THAT SIL CONTINUE TO SERVE PERU. THIS INITIATIVE HAS RESULTED IN SOMEWHAT IMPROVED PRESS FOR SIL IN RECENT DAYS. A KEY SIL SUPPORTER HAS WARNED MORALES BERMUDEZ OF THE POLITICAL DANGER OF TERMINATING SIL ACTIVITIES ONLY TO ALLOW LEFTIST CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION TO EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS AMONG JUNGLE INDIANS. A REVERSAL OF THE GOP DECISION IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT THE ISSUE MAY NOW BECOME PART OF THE CONTINUING BROADER ARGUMENT OVER THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING THE APRIL 15 MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING THE TRANSFER OF SIL ASSETS AND OPERATIONS TO THE GOP, PERUVIAN SUPPORTERS OF SIL DRAFTED AND CIRCULATED FOR SIGNATURE A LETTER CITING THE QUALITY OF ITS LINGUISTIC WORK AND ITS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD IMPROVING THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE JUNGLE TRIBES. THE LETTER RECALLS THE AID WHICH SIL HAS GIVEN TO THE MINISTRIES OF WAR, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND AVIATION OVER THE YEARS AND THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION SENT BY

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MINISTERIAL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. THE LETTER, WHICH WAS

PRINTED IN THREE LIMA DAILIES APRIL 25-26, ASKS THE GOP TO
ALLOW THE SIL TO CONTINUE "OFFERING ITS SERVICES TO PERU."

2. THE LETTER IS SIGNED BY 65 PRESTIGIOUS PERUVIANS,
INCLUDING FIVE FORMER MINISTERS OF EDUCATION; PERU'S BEST-KNOWN
HISTORIAN, POST AND NOVELIST, RESPECTIVELY JORGE BASADRE,
CARLOS GERMAN BELLI, AND MARIO VARGAS LLOSA; THE CURRENT
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY
ADMINISTRATORS (CONUP), SANTIAGO AGURTO CALVO; AND A NUMBER
OF RETIRED SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS. THESE LATTER INCLUDED
THE FOUNDER OF CAEM, GENERAL JOSE DEL CARMEN MARIN; SEVERAL
RECENTLY RETIRED ADMIRALS NOTABLY INCLUDING FORMER NAVY
MINISTER LUIS E. VARGAS CABALLERO; AND SEVERAL FORMER ARMY
COMMANDERS OF THE JUNGLE ZONE WHERE MOST OF SIL'S WORK HAS TAKEN
PLACE OVER THE YEARS. THERE ARE ALSO THREE CATHOLIC PRIESTS,
TWO OF THEM NOTED ANTHROPOLOGISTS, AMONG THE SIGNERS.

3. SIL SUPPORTERS HAVE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISOR AND FRIEND OF THE SIL FRANCISCO MIRO QUESADA CALLED ON
PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14. MIRO QUESADA
EXPLAINED THE SIL OPERATION AND TOLD THE PRESIDENT IT WOULD BE
A MISTAKE TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT AT THIS TIME. HE IS SAID
TO HAVE WARNED MORALES BERMUDEZ OF THE DANGER INVOLVED IN
TURNING THE SIL OVER TO THE CNA CAMPESINO GROUP AND HE REPORTEDLY
ALLUDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SIL CENTER LATER BECOMING A
FOCUS FOR "GUERRILLAS". MORALES BERMUDEZ APPEARED TO LISTEN
SYMPATHETICALLY AND ASKED FOR A REPORT BY APRIL 21.

4. IN THE MEANTIME THE MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION WAS ANNOUNCED
ANYWAY. THE PERUVIAN SUPPORTS OF SIL BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN
A DOUBLECROSS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, PERHAPS OF THE
PRESIDENT HIMSELF, AND THEY BLAME PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ
MALDONADO WHO SIGNED THE APRIL 15 RESOLUTION ON THE TRANSFER OF
SIL. THE PRIME MINISTER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN UNDULY
RECEPTIVE TO THE TO THE LEFTIST CAMPAIGN LED BY THE CNA AND
THE FRONT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION TO DRIVE SIL FROM
ITS OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOP AND ITS JUNGLE SITE.

5. AN AID TO GERNANDEZ MALDONADO INTERPRETED THE BACKGROUND OF
THE CABINET DECISION QUITE DIFFERENTLY, HOWEVER, HE TOLD EMBOFF
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THAT THE FULL CABINET HAD AGREED ON THE TERMINATION OF THE SIL
CONTRACT AT THE MARCH 2 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. THE AIDE
SAID IT IS NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SIGN
MINISTERIAL RESOLUTIONS WHICH ARE A STEP BELOW A DECREE LAW.
THE SAME OFFICIAL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE SIL ASSETS AND PROGRAMS
WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GOP INITIALLY, THEY WILL IN DUE
COURSE BE TURNED OVER TO THE CNA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE
NEWSPAPER EL COMERCIO WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE CNA IN JULY,

THUS BECOMING THE FIRST PAPER TO BE ACTUALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE ORGANIZED SECTOR IT IS SAID TO REPRESENT. BOTH THE CNA ASSUMPTION OF SIL ASSETS AND THE TRANSFER OF EL COMERCIO TO THE CNA WERE DEMANDS OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

6. IN RECENT WEEEEKS PERUVIAN SUPPORTERS OF SIL HAVE CALLED UPON THE AMBASSADOR TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF THEIR GROWING CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF SIL. THEY HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW SIL'S FRIENDS IN THE U.S., WHICH THEY ESTIMATE AT UP TO ONE MILLION (SIC), COULD HELP REVERSE THE DECISION AGAINST SIL AND SAID THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH A CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE CONGRESS TO BRING PRESSURE UPON THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY AND GOP TO RECONSIDER THE RECENT DECISION.

7. COMMENT: A GOP REVERSAL OF THE DECISION ON SIL IS POSSIBLE, BUT UNLIKELY. TH MATTER OF SIL'S CONTINUANCE IN PERU HAS NOT BEEN SET, BOTH BY ITS ENEMIES AND ITS SUPPORTERS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT RIGHT/CENTER/LEFT STRUGGLE TO DIRECT THE REVOLUTION. WITHIN THAT CONTEXT MORALES BERMUDEZ MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LOBBYING OF RETIRED BUT STILL INFLUENTIAL OFFICERS LIKE GENERAL JOSE DEL CARMEN MARIA AND ADMIRAL LUIS VARGAS CABALLERO. AT THE PRESENT TIME DR. ANDERSON, THE DIRECTOR OF SIL, IS REFUSING ALL PRESS INQUIRES AND HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT NO U.S. CITIZEN CONNECTED WITH SIL WILL HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO SAY. "IT'S UP TO THE PERUVIANS NOW". THAT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE EMBASSY.
DEAN

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